

Blaine County FSA
PO Box 307
Chinook MT 59523

County Committee Members

Alan Van Voast
Patty Quisno
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Dates to Remember:

December 3 – Dairy Disaster Aid
Signup Begins

December 12-15 – Montana
Stockgrowers Annual Convention,
Billings

December 25 – Holiday – Office
closed

January 1 – Holiday – Office
closed

January – April – Continuation of
Brand Liens

January 15 – Holiday – Office
closed

January 31 – Final loan/LDP
availability date for wool/mohair
shorn in 2007

January 31 – Final LDP
availability date for
2007 unshorn pelts

March 17, 2008 – NAP
sales closing date for
all crops except value
loss crops



Farm Service Agency

Blaine County FSA

December 10, 2007

Signup Still Underway for Disaster Assistance Programs

Signup continues for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and the Crop Disaster Program (CDP). Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 or producers located in counties contiguous to those counties are eligible. CDP does not require a disaster declaration.

Contact the office for further explanation of the programs or to make an appointment to discuss eligibility.

Dairy Disaster Aid Program Signup Begins

Signup begins December 3rd for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP-III) Program. DDAP-III will provide benefits to eligible dairy producers who suffered production losses during a variety of adverse weather conditions. Eligible counties are those counties that were declared a natural disaster in 2005 and/or 2006 and January/February 2007.

Production losses must have occurred between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007 due to natural disasters.

The program provides benefits to dairy producers for production losses that occurred between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007. It compensates dairy producers who may have incurred decreases in annual production because of cattle and yield losses.

Comments may be made on DDAP-III until December 26, 2007. The proposed rules may be found on the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> under "In the News." Comments should include the volume, date and page number of the issue of the Federal Register. Comments may be made by e-mail, fax or regular mail.

- E-mail: Danielle.Cooke@wdc.usda.gov
- Fax: 202/690-1536
- Online: <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Year End Reviews

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The office will contact you for the data you will need to assist us.

January 31 Deadline to Request 2007 Wool and Mohair Loans and LDPs

Wool and mohair producers have until January 31 to apply for either a nine-month, nonrecourse marketing assistance loan or a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) for 2007-crop wool or mohair.

The national loan rate for ungraded wool offered as collateral will secure a non-recourse loan made at a rate of 40 cents per pound. For graded wool, loans will be based on the statutory rate of \$1.00 per pound. Producers who desire a non-recourse loan for mohair will receive the statutory rate of \$4.20 per pound. Loan rates will be adjusted based on a schedule of quality premiums and discounts applicable to the 2005 marketing year. The repayment amount per pound for mohair and for both graded and ungraded wool will be announced at close of business each Tuesday, and can be found on the Montana FSA website at:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

For Montana the loan rates are divided into two regions by county. Producers should pick the correct region for their operation and then check the posted rates at:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/MKTPRICLEAN2.htm> for region 2 counties and at:
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/psd/MKTPRICLEAN3.htm> for region 3 counties.

Instead of obtaining a loan, producers may request LDPs on these commodities. The LDP rates will be the difference between the per pound loan rate and the weekly announced repayment rate. The repayment prices reflect prices being offered in the current market.

Census of Agriculture Coming Soon

Beginning December 28, 2007, the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) will mail out Census of Agriculture forms to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Forms may be returned by mail or, for the first time, forms may be filled out online via a secure web site.

Conducted every five years by USDA, the Census is a complete count of the nation's farm and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. The Census provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

For more information about the 2007 Census of Agriculture, contact the NASS Montana Field Office at 406/441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612 or log on to the Montana Agriculture Statistics website at <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov>.

Annie's Project

Montana Market Manager will usher Annie's Project into Montana starting in January 2008. Annie's Project will be delivered in six 3-hour sessions at 12 locations around Montana. Each Monday evening session will run from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Registration is \$100.

Class locations:

Baker – Baker High School
Bozeman – Burns Telecom Center, MSU
Culbertson – Roosevelt Memorial Hospital
Dillon – University of Montana – Western
Glasgow – Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital
Great Falls – MSU College of Technology
Havre – MSU Northern
Lewistown – Central Montana Education Center
Miles City – Miles City Community College
Rapelje – Rapelje High School
Scobey – Scobey High School
Shelby – Marias Medical Center
Sidney – ARS Center

www.montanamarketmanager.org/Education&Reference/WorkshopCalendar or call the Montana Grain Growers office at 406/761-4596.

Farm Storage Facility Loan

FSA may make loans to producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

Commodities covered under this storage program are rice, soybeans, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas, peanuts, sunflower, flaxseed, mustard seed, and other oilseeds as determined and announced. Corn, grain sorghum, oats, wheat, or barley harvested as whole grain or other than whole grain are also eligible.

Loans may be made only for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities.

Eligible facilities and equipment include:

- New conventional-type cribs or bins designed and engineered for whole grain storage and having a useful life of at least 10 years;
- New oxygen limiting and other upright silo-type structures designed for whole grain storage or other than whole grain wet storage having a useful life of at least 10 years;
- Re-manufactured oxygen-limiting storage structures built to original manufacturer's design specifications using original manufacturer's rebuild kits having a useful life of at least 10 years;
- New structures that are upright, bunker-type, horizontal, or open silo structures with at least 2 concrete walls and a concrete floor, designed for whole grains storage or other than whole grain storage having a useful life of at least 10 years;
- New permanently affixed grain handling equipment and grain drying equipment determined by FSA to be needed and essential to the proper functioning of a grain storage system, with or without a loan for storage structures;
- Existing storage renovated according to FSA regulations without an increase in storage capacity;

- New electrical equipment, such as lighting and motors integral to the proper operation of grain storage and handling equipment, excluding the installation of electrical service to the electrical meter;
- New equipment to improve, maintain or monitor the quality of stored grain;
- Safety equipment as required; and
- New flat-type storage structures, including a permanent concrete floor and bulkheads, designed for and primarily used to store whole grain for the term of the loan.

The applicant must:

- Complete form CCC-185
- Pay a non-refundable application fee of \$45.00 to the FSA office
- Provide copies of contracts, project cost breakdown, copies of site plans or estimates for all proposed work;
- Provide form FSA 440-32
- Provide proof of multi-peril crop insurance
- Provide legal description of parcel (s) of land to be offered as security and legal description of land where facility will be placed;
- File CCC-10

The maximum term of the loan is 7 years. The maximum principal amount of any farm storage facility loan shall be 85 percent of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment not to exceed \$100,000 for each borrower signing the note and security agreement.

A minimum down payment representing the difference between the net cost of the storage facility and the amount of the loan shall be made by the loan applicant to the supplier or contractor before the loan is disbursed.

Loans shall bear interest at the rate equivalent to the rate of interest charged on U.S. Treasury securities of comparable maturity on the date the loan is approved. The interest rate for each loan will remain in effect for the term of the loan. Other requirements may apply.

USDA-Blaine County FSA
PO Box 307
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NAP Application for Honey Deadline

The NAP application for coverage sales closing date for honey for the 2008 crop year is December 3, 2007. The NAP closing date for all other crops except value loss crops is March 17, 2008. Contact the FSA office for more information on the NAP program.

Happy Holidays From Our Staff

